

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read three times and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1668) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5901, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5901) to establish a program to facilitate the adoption of modern technology by executive agencies, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read three times and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5901) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

TEAM VETERAN CAREGIVERS ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 540, S. 2216.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2216) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act" or the "TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATION OF CAREGIVER PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF CAREGIVERS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, when determined feasible by the Secretary, shall formally recognize all caregivers of veterans by identifying any caregiver of a veteran in the electronic health record of the veteran.

(2) INCLUSION.—Caregivers recognized under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) any family caregiver who is approved as a provider of personal care services for an eligible veteran under the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under subsection (a) of section 1720G of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) any caregiver of a covered veteran participating in the program of support services for caregivers under subsection (b) of such section.

(b) STANDARDIZED LETTERS REGARDING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS UNDER FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM.—

Section 1720G(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(12)(A) The Secretary shall notify the individuals described in subparagraph (B) regarding decisions affecting the furnishing of assistance under this subsection using standardized letters, as the Secretary determines such notifications and letters to be appropriate.

"(B) The individuals described in this subparagraph shall include—

"(i) an individual who submits an application for the program required by paragraph (1);

"(ii) an individual determined by the Secretary to be an eligible veteran pursuant to such an application; and

"(iii) a family caregiver of an eligible veteran who is—

"(I) approved as a provider of personal care services under paragraph (6)(B); or

"(II) designated as a primary provider of personal care services under paragraph (7)(A)."

(c) TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF BENEFITS FOR FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM.—Upon determining that a veteran who was receiving services under the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under section 1720G(a) of title 38, United States Code, is no longer clinically eligible for purposes of such program, the Secretary shall extend benefits under such program, including stipends under paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(V) of such section, for a period of time determined by the Secretary if such an extension is determined appropriate by the Secretary.

Mr. PORTMAN. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Peters substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; that the committee-reported title amendment be considered and agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 2688) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act".

ures for Veteran Caregivers Act" or the "TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATION OF CAREGIVER PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) FORMAL RECOGNITION OF CAREGIVERS.—

(1) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report regarding the feasibility and advisability of formally recognizing all caregivers of veterans by identifying any caregiver of a veteran in the electronic health record of the veteran.

(B) CAREGIVERS RECOGNIZED.—The recognition of caregivers described in subparagraph (A) shall include recognition of—

(i) any family caregiver who is approved as a provider of personal care services for an eligible veteran under the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under subsection (a) of section 1720G of title 38, United States Code; and

(ii) any caregiver of a covered veteran participating in the program of general caregiver support services under subsection (b) of such section.

(C) TIMELINE.—If the Secretary determines that formally recognizing all caregivers of veterans as described in subparagraph (A) is feasible and advisable, the report required by such subparagraph shall include a timeline for implementing such recognition.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—If the Secretary determines that formally recognizing all caregivers of veterans as described in paragraph (1)(A) is feasible and advisable, the Secretary shall implement such recognition in accordance with the timeline included in the report required by such paragraph.

(b) NOTIFICATIONS, EXTENSION OF BENEFITS, AND DISCHARGE FROM FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM.—Section 1720G(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(12)(A) The Secretary shall notify the individuals described in subparagraph (C) regarding decisions affecting the furnishing of assistance under this subsection using standardized letters, as the Secretary determines such notifications and letters to be appropriate.

"(B) A notification provided under subparagraph (A) shall include the elements required for notices of decisions under section 5104(b) of this title to the extent that those elements apply to such notification, unless, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act, the Secretary determines that it would not be feasible to include such elements in such notifications and submits to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth the reasons for such determination.

"(C) The individuals described in this subparagraph shall include—

"(i) an individual who submits an application for the program established under paragraph (1);

"(ii) an individual determined by the Secretary to be an eligible veteran pursuant to such an application; and

"(iii) a family caregiver of an eligible veteran who is—

"(I) approved as a provider of personal care services under paragraph (6)(B); or

"(II) designated as a primary provider of personal care services under paragraph (7)(A).

"(13)(A) If the Secretary determines that a veteran receiving services under the program